



Annual Report
UPON THE
Public Health & Sanitary Conditions
OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT
OF
LEIGHTON BUZZARD
FOR THE YEAR
1944

BY
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Medical Officer of Health.

TO THE LEIGHTON BUZZARD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report for the year 1944.

Copies of this Report, as you are aware, must be sent to the Ministry of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	2487
Population (estimated to middle of 1944)	...	...	...	...	...	7601
Number of inhabited houses (1944)	...	...	...	...	...	2189
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	£41,388
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£166

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total M. F.				
Live Births	Legitimate	115	66	49	Birth Rate	... 16.57
	Illegitimate	11	5	6		
		Total M. F.				
Still Births	Legitimate	4	1	3	Rate per 1,000 total births	... 30.77
	Illegitimate	0	0	0		
Deaths	...	...	103	49	54	Death Rate ... 13.55
No. of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth		1			Rate per 1,000 total births	... 7.69
Deaths of Infants under one year of age :					Rate per 1,000 live births	
All Infants		...	...	9	71.4	
Legitimate Infants		...	...	9	71.4	
Illegitimate Infants		...	...	0	Nil.	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		...	...	...	...	Nil
„	„	Whooping Cough (all ages)		...	...	Nil
„	„	Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)		...	...	Nil
„	„	Scarlet Fever (all ages)		...	...	Nil
„	„	Diphtheria (all ages)		...	...	Nil
„	„	Cancer (all ages)		...	...	10

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

A part-time Medical Officer is employed, together with a Sanitary Inspector, and a Veterinary Meat Inspector.

All cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria sent away for isolation were treated at the Dunstable and District Isolation Hospital, the cases being removed by the Hospital's own ambulance in accordance with the County Scheme.

351 cases of Notifiable Disease were notified during the year, eight of the cases being sent to Dunstable in accordance with the above scheme, and two cases to Luton Isolation Hospital. The remaining cases were isolated and nursed at home.

Patients with Tuberculosis can attend at the Clinic, which is conveniently held at Luton, and they can be admitted to the Mogerhanger Sanatorium.

Venereal cases can be treated at the Clinics of the Luton and Dunstable Hospital, and the Bedford County Hospital.

Arrangements are made by the County Council for the treatment of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There is a St. John motor ambulance available, at a local garage, which is a great convenience and comfort in the removal of special or accident cases to the hospitals.

There are two permanently resident midwives in the town. A Health Visitor also visits the homes and gives instruction and advice.

Specimens and swabs are sent to the Clinical Research Association and Luton Borough Laboratory for microscopic and bacteriological examination.

The Council grants supplies of Antitoxin and Scarlet Fever Serum.

An Infant Welfare Centre is conducted in the town, a lady Health Visitor being present each week. She is assisted by the local nurse and several ladies in the town. A medical officer also attends. It is a very popular centre.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The town is supplied with water from a new 24" diameter bore hole which is sunk 250 feet into the lower greensand at the Council's Waterworks in Stanbridge Road.

The water is pumped by an electrical driven vertical spindle eight stage 8" diameter centrifugal pump, at the rate of 15,000 gallons per hour through three Candy's Iron Extraction Pressure Filters to a booster pump, which forces the water through a 7" diameter rising main to a 400,000 gallon Covered Reservoir at Shenley Hill.

There is also an alternative supply at the Waterworks which consists of a 24" diameter bore hole sunk to a depth of 210 feet, with an electrical driven vertical spindle five stage 6" centrifugal pump with a rated output of 12,000 gallons per hour.

The quality of water is perfectly satisfactory as proved by bacteriological examination.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewerage of the district is on the "Separate System" and from four low level pumping stations, which cover about half the town's drainage area, the sewage is lifted by a pair of ejectors at each station to the main sewer, which gravitates to the sewage disposal works.

The sewage is treated at the Sewage Disposal Works by means of Settling Tanks, three 74ft. diameter clinker filters and two Humus Tanks.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House refuse and salvage is collected once a fortnight from each household, and kitchen waste is collected from public bins and certain establishments twice weekly or as often as required.

Both these collections have been regularly carried out throughout the year.

The Council's controlled refuse tip in Vandyke Road is still maintained in an efficient manner.

Street gullies are periodically cleansed and flushed out with clean water.

DISINFECTION.

A stock of disinfectants is kept at the Council's Store Yard, West Street, and the public can have a full supply on application, of which they take advantage.

Premises are always disinfected after cases of infectious disease, and after deaths from tuberculosis.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is now only one common lodging house in the district, which is kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

SCHOOLS.

The Elementary Schools of the town are as follows:—

Beauesert : Senior Boys and Mixed Infants.

Bassett Road : Senior Girls.

Pulford : Junior Boys.

St. Andrew's : Junior Girls.

The sanitary accommodation is sufficient and in good order.

There is a Secondary School in the town for boys and girls which is well provided with all sanitary arrangements.

CAMPING SITES.

There were two licenses issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the occupation of two caravans on separate sites.

SWIMMING BATH AND POOLS.

There is one swimming bath in the town situated in the grounds of the Cedars School for the use of the pupils and members of the staff. The bath is of modern construction and is provided with proper purification plant.

There has been a considerable drop in the level of the natural swimming pool on the outskirts of the town which is probably due to the low rainfall.

If the water level continues to drop the pool may become unsuitable for bathing.

It is realised that a properly constructed swimming pool is required for the town.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Three Council Houses and five other houses found to be infested with bugs were successfully fumigated with "Cimex."

Houses are periodically visited by the Sanitary Inspector, and tenants are encouraged to report any signs of infestation or re-infestation of their houses.

KNACKERS' YARD.

There is one knackers' yard in the district which is kept in a satisfactory condition.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are eight bakehouses in the district, one of which is underground.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	61
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	146
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	11
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	32
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	11

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	11
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :

A. Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners 3

(b) By local authority in default of owners 1

C. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil

D. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

Total number of new houses erected in 1944 classified as follows :

By the Local Authority Nil

By private enterprise Nil

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

I. GENERAL.

Number of Inspections 282

Complaints received 58

Nuisances detected without complaint 39

Notices served, informal 85

Notices served, statutory 1

Nuisances abated :

(a) by persons responsible 87

(b) by Council Nil

2. HOUSE NUISANCES.							
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Guttering and rainwater pipes cleaned out or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dirty houses cleansed and distempered	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
External walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Pavements repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
3. DRAINS, WATER CLOSETS, ETC.							
New drains laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drains cleared or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Water closets repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Sanitary galvanized ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Additional Water Closets provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Privy Ashpits converted into Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Pail Closets repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pail Closets converted to Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
4. KNACKERS' YARDS.							
Number on Register	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of defects found	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
5. BAKEHOUSES.							
Number on Register	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Number of defects found	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
6. DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.							
Number of Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Number of Cowkeepers	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Number of defects found	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
7. FOOD (PREPARATION AND MANUFACTURE) PREMISES.							
Number on Register	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Number of defects found	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Number remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

8. VARIOUS.

Removal of animals improperly kept	Nil
Visits to infected houses	8
Houses disinfected	8
Verminous houses fumigated	8
Other items : One Common Lodging House inspections	12

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The milk supply is obtained from the Urban District and the Luton and Wing Rural Districts. Pasteurised milk is also delivered into the District in bulk and in bottles. Inspections of the farms and dairies have been made.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected ...	1232	578	3294	31
All diseases except Tuberculosis.				
Whole Carcases condemned	3	1		1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	144	5	150	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	11.93%	1.03%	4.55%	25.8%
Tuberculosis only.				
Whole Carcases condemned	30			
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	202	2	9	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	19.14%	0.34%	0.27%	

Inspections were made at various shops and premises and the following articles of food were examined and condemned :—

173 lbs. Canned Meats.	26 lbs. Prunes.
116½ lbs. Bacon.	25 pacs. Atora Suet.
15½ lbs. Cheese.	53 tins Milk.
294 lbs. Fish.	3 tins Fruit.
56 lbs. Cereals.	140 tins Vegetables.
241 lbs. Cake.	161 tins Fish.
233 lbs. Biscuits.	33 tins Soup.
154 lbs. Wheat Flakes.	69 tins Pancake Mixture.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

Specimens for the Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of milk and food are sent to the Clinical Research Association.

MEASURES RELATING TO INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

SMALL POX.—No cases notified.

SCARLET FEVER.

Four cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year. All made good recoveries.

DIPHTHERIA.

Four cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year. All made good recoveries.

ENTERIC FEVER.—No cases notified.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

One case was notified which made a good recovery.

PNEUMONIA (ALL FORMS).

Twelve cases of Pneumonia (all forms) were notified during the year.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—No cases notified.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

The one case notified made a complete recovery.

ERYSIPELAS.

One case was notified which was isolated and nursed at home, and made a good recovery.

MEASLES AND CHICKEN POX.

87 cases of Measles and 188 of Chicken Pox were notified and nursed at home. All made good recoveries.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

53 cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Nine cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and two cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were three deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

DIPHThERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of children immunised during 1944 :

Under 5 years.	Over 5 and under 15.	Total.
103	16	119

Number of cases of Diphtheria notified in children under 15 years	3
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Number of cases in which child is known to have completed course of immunisation not less than twelve weeks before onset of disease	Nil
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Your Obedient Servant,

JONATHAN GROGONO,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE II.
Notifiable Diseases during the year 1944.

Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.													Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	Under 1 yr.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & upwards		
Small Pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	4	..	..	..	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
Diphtheria	4	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	4	..
Enteric Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia (all forms)	12	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	3	2	2	2	..	5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
Erysipelas	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Measles	87	5	10	5	8	9	48	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken Pox	188	4	8	14	11	10	114	16	5	6	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	53	6	4	6	7	6	19	1	..	3	..	1	..	..	..
Totals	351	16	22	25	28	26	186	18	7	14	4	3	2	10	5

TABLE III.
Cases of Tuberculosis notified during 1944.

Age-Periods.					New Cases.				Deaths.			
					Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
					M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	..	...	I	...	I	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	...	...	...	...	2	I	...	...	...	I	...	...
25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...
45	...	...	...	...	I	I	...	..	...	I	...	...
55	..	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...
Totals	..	...	...	...	5	4	2	...	I	2	...	...

Causes of Death during the year 1944.

[illegible]

Table V.

Infantile Mortality during the year 1944
 Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.			Under 1 week.	1—2 weeks.	2—4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1—3 months.	3—6 months.	6—9 months.	9—12 months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes {	Certified		4	...	3	7	...	I	I	...	9
	Uncertified		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Chicken-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diphtheria and Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Tuberculous Meningitis		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Abdominal Tuberculosis		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Tuberculous Diseases		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Convulsions ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	I
	Laryngitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	...	I	I	...	...	...	...	...	I
{	Diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Enteritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	I
	Gastritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Syphilis ...	...	...	I	I	...	...	...	...	...	I
	Rickets ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Injury at Birth ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Atelectasis ...	...	I	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	I
{	Congenital Malformations		I	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	I
	Premature Birth ...	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
	Atrophy, Debility, and		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Marasmus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Violence ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Accidental & Other Causes		...	...	I	I	...	...	...	...	I
Totals ...			4	...	3	7	...	I	I	...	9

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cases.			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness	Deaths
	Notified	Treated.					
		At Home	In hospital				
Under one year.	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...

